

PREFACE

This is the fourth edition of the new *Technical and Software Bulletin*, and may still require some introduction. The British Geomorphological Research Group (BGRG) published a *Technical Bulletin* series, through Geobooks in Norwich, which provided a reasonably priced forum for technical papers. Quite separately, the BGRG produces the widely read and highly respected journal *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* under the editorship of Professor Mike Kirkby in Leeds, which is published by John Wiley and Sons Ltd. Thirdly, it has become apparent that there is a rapidly increasing usage of computers in general, and numerical modelling techniques in particular, within the subject and that, in common with other disciplines, a medium of exchange for these developments could serve a useful role within the field.

These various factors came together three years ago and it was agreed by the parties involved that a new *Technical and Software Bulletin* should be established which would continue to produce text-based papers but with the same format and rigorous peer-refereeing procedures which are used in the main *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* journal. The *Technical and Software Bulletin* also includes microcomputer software disks which provide computerized models, data sets and digital support for papers in the *Bulletin* and in the main journal; this format is detailed in the following section. Finally, Wiley agreed to publish the new *Bulletin* as an annual supplement to the main journal. Following last year's edition, this issue of the *Technical and Software Bulletin* not only continues with the technical papers, software-related papers and reference section based, in part, on the 1995 editions of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, but also has a new digital mapping section.

It is apparent that the potential for the publication and dissemination of disk-based material is recognized in the research community. The editorial office has received software from around the world and we have been able to publish spreadsheet-based material, some code, a number of reference and datasets and the digital map in this edition. In addition, the BGRG has a new digital journal entitled *Glacial Geology and Geomorphology*, edited by Brian Whalley and published by Wiley, which is distributed through the Internet and a greatly expanded WWW home page. Further particulars are given in this volume.

My thanks are extended to all those who have helped: Tim Burt for handing over the editorship of the old *Technical Bulletin*, Mike Kirkby for encouragement throughout the process, Keith Clayton for providing stock of the old *Technical Bulletins* which have been passed to David Thomas in Sheffield, Helen Bailey at Wiley for recognizing the potential of these new developments, and the referees and reviewers who have helped this year. We are already taking material for the 1997 edition.

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